

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-17 without prejudice.

Claims 1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A tool for the distinguishing between bindings of different strengths between microbiological entities, the tool comprising:

- first particles and second particles, at least one of which is magnetic,
- means acting on the first and second particles to thereby exert a mechanical stress on bindings between the first and second microbiological entities and to distinguish between the bindings of different strengths, the means for exerting a mechanical stress comprising at least a magnetic field generator.

19. (Original) A tool according to claim 18 wherein both first and second particles are magnetic or the first particles are magnetic and the second particles are not magnetic.

20. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 18, wherein first and/or second particles are coupled to a microbiological entity.

21. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 18 wherein the microbiological entity is a bioactive molecule such as a protein or a peptide.

22. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 18, wherein the means for exerting a mechanical stress includes means for exerting a fluid frictional force on the first or second particles.

23. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 18, further comprising an array of microbiological entities arranged on capture spots on a substrate.

24. (Previously Presented) The tool according to claim 18, further comprising means for generating an excitation that forces a lateral movement of the particles with respect to the array.

25. (Previously Presented) Use of the tool according to claim 18 for the identification, isolation, purification of a specific bound bioactive molecule.